

THE POISON PLANET

A Jon Jarl Adventure

By Eando Binder

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ARNING! Poison Plane! Keep Away! down. Jos

Lieutenant Jon Jarl of the Space Police, cruising over m bis rocket ship, shuddered as he read the sign. The giant warning sign was painted in huge letters down on a flat stretch of rock. It warned all space ships away from Asteroid 2-60, better innown as away from Asteroid 2-60, better innown

away from Asteroid Z-05, better known as Poison Planet. But the next moment, Jon was startled to see another space ship rocket past him and go down, holming on the Poison Planet. What crany fools were they, spooting the danger? Jon landed nearby and stepped out in his see:

suits.
"You sdoots!" Jon shouted, "Got off right away, Everything is posson here—everything!

Get off if you value yo. h. ps.?"

One man raised a hand. "One moment, of-focr. We know all that. We'ge here for a apecual purpose I'm Professor Caldwell and this is my assistant, Kai Rudd. We've perfected an antifore to the persons of this

"Antidote?" repeated Jon, surprised.
The professor held up a flask containing all sparking flast. "Yes. This liquid borroome will so change the metabolism of the hursan body.

"Great stars!" exclaimed Jon, excited now.
"If it works, it will allow people to come here
and live. It will give us a whole new world to
colonize! But will your stuff work, Pro-

"The ready to test it out now," returned the scientist. Opening his space suit visor, he guiped the liquid down. Then he picked a lustions fruit hanging from a tree. "It's deadly poison," he sads. "Before, one bite and a man would die. But now, with the antidoteborrouse in me, I can set it and live!" Then he added calmay, "That is, if my formula is the tight one;"

Without hesitation, in scientific zeal, he bit into the poisonous fruit and gulped it all

Binder

down. Jon Jarl stared. Would the professor
turn green . withe on the ground
scream in mortal agony . . die before their

eyes? But five minutes later, the scientist stood there smiling, unharmed.
"I suppose I should say cureks," the professor grinned. "It worked perfectly! Now my support will take a dose and set some

"suppose I should say cureka," the professor grinned, "It worked perfectly! Now my swintant will take a dose and out some poisoned fruit as a double check." After this was done, and Kal Rudd stood

"Now there's no further doubt. I'll turn the formula over to the Interplanetary Colonian Bursan and . ""No you won't" interrupted Kal Rudd. "I'l take care of the formula."

ready held a ray-gun in his hand. "Drop your gun, copper" he snarled, and Jon was forced to chey. Rudd pocked the weapon up.
"Vitat are you up to?" snapped Jon.

"A scheme to make millions!" Rudd e "A scheme to make millions!" Rudd e turned triumphantly, "That feel professor w going to give his formula away. But my stoart! I'll sell it to big interplanetary reeatte firm, as my own. They'll pay plantly for it, allowing them to develop and sell land of this morted?"

"So that's it," Jon said. "But you can't get away with it, Rodd. We'll be witnesses that you stole the formula."
"Will you?" contradicted Rudd, grunning wickedly. "But you two are soins to stay on

"Will you?" contradicted Rudd, granning wickedly. "But you two are going to stay on the Poison Planet now! Dead men tell no tales, you know!" Rudd was already alming the gun at them,

hut Jon leaped anto action, pulling the grofesor down, pars as the first abot hissed over them. Then Jon yanked the professor toward a nearby thicket. Ray-abots hased at their feet, missing. They reached the blocket ... safe. Rudd's shouts came to them then, turning their blood cold. 'It makes no difference the cold.' It makes no difference—

two are still doomed! Without the ant (Continued on inside back cover)



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CAPT, MARVEL ATE IN YESTERDAY! GO CH, ANY KIND THE

The Poison Planet

dote, the space cop can't eat the poisoned food here, so he'll starve/ As for the professor, who can est, some wild salmal will get him. You

can eat, some wild seismal will get him. You have no guns!"
With that, Rudd strede to Jon's ship, set the controls insule, and stepped out. A moment

lost forever. Detroe anim took of in mocking words.
"Now you have no ship for escape sither.
You'll both die here. Goodbys . . . forever?"
Dumbly, horrified, Jon and the professor
weehed the ship blare away and wonish. "Me-

rooned? groaned the scientist. "We're deemed to die here on the Poisson Planet!" So it seemed as they wandered away hopelessly. In an hour the oxygen-bettles of their space suits gave out. They stripped off the

space units gave out. They stripped off the uteless suits and breathed the trained siz. "Even the air is poisonous" said the professor. "A slow posson, but in time it rose the lungs? He stared pityingly at Jon. "Pin safe from the solices, but you area". Everything

is poison to you here."
"Even insect bites!" muttered Jon, as a ting

Later, hungry, the professor picked fru and ate. He drank from a bubblish, brook. "Bu

frink!"

It was maddening for Jon Jarl, as the pangs
of bunger and thirst raged over him. All
around were springs of cool saving water, and
trees laden with ripe fruits. But it was all

drank, it would be a feast of details. But there was danger for the professor, too, as suddenly a slinking beast with a tigerath body and huge fangs leaped at them? Jon huried the attention saids and grabbed up a titled wooden saids and grabbed up a titled wooden saids Sand time in beast possessed, Jon stouted him on the test possessed, Jon stouted him on the said was a supplied to the said of the said was a supplied to th

staring at Jon's composed face. "How can you take it all so calmly, without fear, when we're going to die soon?"

"Became we're not come to die," returned

"Because we're not going to die," returned Jon. "We're going to find food and guns both soon!"
"On this wild Poison Pienet?" snapped the professor. "You're mad—insuns!" But only an bour later, Jon broke into a run, pointing shead at a gleam of metal through trees! "A space ship wreck!" gasped the professor. "You knew?"

Jon nodded. "It was in the records that a big space freighter crashed on the Polson Planet a year ago. And it carries a cargo of canned food which will be safe for me to

canned food which will be safe for me to cat. Also, we'll find guns?"

Within, Jon soon found the canned foods and eigetly opened them, gulping down the contents. Also there were bug bottles of bev-

erages to stake his burning thirst. And among the skaletons of the dead crew, killed by the crash, they found guns "But it's only a reprieve from death?" croaked the professor. "After the food and

die. The ship's radio is smashed and we can't signal for help. Who is there to come and reacue us?"
"Kal Rudd himself," Jon said, neachalantly licking has fingers and opening another con.

"Kal Rudd)" cobsed the professor blankly.

"Kal Rudd)" cobsed the professor blankly.

"He's the fast person in the universe to restue
us. You're utterly crazy"

"Am I'm grunted Jon. "Listen . . . hear

that? It's his ship coming back. Come on, we'd better make a big smoke-fire agenal on he can find us."

Later, the ship landed near their sagnal

belp ms, professor!" he screeched. "I'm poisoned!"
"Dea't you get it, Professor!" Jon said, inking Rudd's gun sawy. "Your stuff changed Rudd's mutablisms to than its could cut the peissoned food of this planet. But them, quite unrequirigit, the reverse became true—that

THE PROFESSOR modded. "At my laboratory I'll alter my formula so it will allow people to eat beth mermal and poisoned food. Then we'll open up the Poison Planet for settlement." He stared at Jon admiringly. "Speaking of poison, that's what you are, Jon

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